

Appl. Serial. No. 10/686,228
Reply to Office Action of 04/25/2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An edge protector adapted for protecting edges and corners of an article or reinforcing the corners of a container when positioned therein, said edge protector comprising:

a blank sheet of foldable material having a top side and a bottom side; a plurality of parallel fold lines scored into said sheet and laterally spaced to divide said sheet into at least a panel one, a panel two, a panel three, a panel four, and a panel five consecutively hinged together at the fold lines to allow for easy folding of said panels into overlapping engagement, wherein panels three and four are of equal width and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width each having a width less than panels three and four individually;

a first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels two and three so that a top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel three;

a second leg intersecting said first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels one, four, and five so that a top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel four, and a top side of panel five is placed in face-to-face contact with a bottom side of panel one; and,

an adhesive included between the face-to-face contact of panels two and three, panels one and four, and panels one and five for securing said panels in overlapping

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engagement to maintain said first and second legs in a fixed folded arrangement with each other.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The edge protector of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein panel one has a width less than the width of panel two.

4. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 3 wherein panel five has a width greater than the width of panel one and panel two individually.

5. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 1 wherein said first leg and said second leg intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

6. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 1 wherein said blank sheet of foldable material comprises corrugated paperboard.

7. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 1 wherein the fold line scored between panels one and two is scored on said bottom side of said sheet and the rest of the fold lines are scored on said top side of said sheet.

8. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 1 including a double score fold line connecting panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded into overlapping engagement with panel one, said double score fold line allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a box edge protector comprising the steps of:

providing a blank sheet of foldable material having a top side and a bottom side;

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scoring a plurality of laterally spaced parallel fold lines into said sheet so that said sheet is divided into a panel one, a panel two, a panel three, a panel four, and a panel five consecutively hinged together at said fold lines to allow for easy folding of said panels into overlapping engagement;

spacing said fold lines so that panels three and four are of equal width and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width each having a width less than panels three and four individually;

folding said sheet at said fold line between panels two and three to overlap panels three and four with panels one and two so that a top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel three, and a top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel four;

folding said sheet at said fold lines between panels one and two, and, three and four, so that panels two and three form a first leg intersecting with a second leg formed by panels one and four;

folding the sheet at the fold line between panels four and five so that a top side of panel five is placed in face-to-face contact with a bottom side of panel one for locking said first and second legs in position.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 including the step of scoring said fold line between panels one and two on said bottom side of said sheet and scoring the rest of said fold lines on said top side of said sheet.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 including the step of folding said sheet at said fold line between panels one and two to form approximately a 90°

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angle between panels one and two prior to folding panel two into overlapping engagement with panel three.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 including the step of folding said sheet at said fold line between panels three and four to form approximately a 90° angle between panels three and four prior to folding panel one into overlapping engagement with panel four.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 including the step of placing an adhesive on said top side of panels three, four, and five prior to folding for securing the panels in overlapping engagement when folded.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 9 including the step of spacing said fold lines so that panel one has a width less than the width of panel two.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including the step of spacing said fold lines so that panel five has a width greater than the width of panel one and panel two individually.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 including the step of arranging said first leg and said second leg to intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 including the step of scoring a double score fold line between panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded

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into overlapping engagement with panel one, said double score fold line allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.

19. (Previously Presented) An edge protector adapted for protecting edges and corners of an article or reinforcing the corners of a container when positioned therein, said edge protector comprising:

a blank sheet of foldable material having a top side and a bottom side;

a plurality of parallel fold lines scored into said sheet and laterally spaced to divide said sheet into a plurality of consecutive panels including a panel one, a panel two, a panel three, a panel four, and a panel five;

said panels divided by said fold lines so that panels three and four are of equal width, and panels one, two, and five are of unequal width with each having a width less than panels three and four individually;

a first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels two and three so that a top side of panel two is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel three; and,

a second leg intersecting said first leg formed from folding said sheet to overlap panels one, four, and five so that a top side of panel one is placed in face-to-face contact with a top side of panel four, and a top side of panel five is placed in face-to-face contact with a bottom side of panel one.

20. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 19 wherein said first leg and said second leg intersect at approximately a 90° angle with each other.

21. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 19 wherein said blank sheet of foldable material comprises corrugated paperboard.

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22. (Previously Presented) The edge protector of claim 19 including a double score fold line connecting panel four and panel five wherein said double score fold line includes a pair of fold lines laterally spaced the thickness of the sheet for allowing panel five to be double hinged to panel four so that when panel five is folded into overlapping engagement with panel one, said double score fold line allows panel five to easily fold around the thickness of panel one.